

Marine Mechanic

Fix boat engines, outboards and everything wired into them. About a year of training, then work at a marina or your own service truck.

TYPICAL PAY

\$57,550

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$37k to \$79k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Marinas, boat dealerships,
boatyards, engine makers, mobile...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Small engine or auto shop, electrical, and math. Fix a lawnmower, then an outboard, and keep the photos.
- 2 Marine technician program, or hire on directly** Up to 1 year
A year at a marine school, a community college marine program, or a job as a yard hand where you learn by doing.
- 3 Factory schools** Ongoing, a week at a time
Mercury Marine, Yamaha Marine, Volvo Penta, Honda Marine and Suzuki Marine all run their own certification training for dealership technicians.
- 4 Industry certification** Years 2 to 4
American Boat and Yacht Council certifications in electrical, systems, engines and corrosion mark you as a serious technician.
- 5 Lead tech, service manager or your own truck** Year 5 onward
Mobile marine repair has very low startup costs and customers who cannot bring the boat to you.

Pros and cons

- + Trained and earning within about a year
- + Little or no student debt compared with a degree
- + Boats are not going to fix themselves, and few young people are entering the trade
- Seasonal in cold states, which can mean a thin winter
- Hot, cramped work in engine wells and bilges
- Flat rate pay punishes you when a job goes wrong

Optional boosts

Marine electrical certification. Marine systems certification. Marine engines and fuel systems certification. Marine corrosion certification.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Motorboat Mechanics and Service Technicians
American Boat and Yacht Council
Marine Mechanics Institute program, Universal Technical Institute
Apprenticeship.gov, the federal apprenticeship finder

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/marine-mechanic>

Good to know

Corrosion has its own certification

The American Boat and Yacht Council certifies technicians specifically in marine corrosion. Stray electrical current in a marina can quietly eat the metal off a hull, and diagnosing it is a specialty of its own.

Five engine brands, five different schools

A marine technician program can put you in front of factory training from Mercury, Yamaha, Volvo Penta, Honda and Suzuki. Each brand has its own diagnostic software, its own tools and its own certification la...



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